

CSDE IHE-LEA-SDE Workgroup

August 21, 2012

Meeting Notes

Attendance: Gladys Labas, Southern; Suzi D'Annolfo, University of Hartford; Suzanne Goodison, Central; Marijke Kehrhahn, UCONN; Holly Hollander, Central; Jacqui Kelleher, Sacred Heart University; Ann Anderberg, Eastern; Iris White, CSDE.

CSDE Updates:

A number of positions at the department have been filled. Dr. Diane Ullman is now the Chief Talent Officer [*she was previously the Interim*]. Dr. Sarah Barzee is joining the new Talent Team as Education Division Director of Leadership Development. Ajit Gopalakrishnan, who has been education consultant for the Adult Education Program has been appointed Bureau Chief of Data Collection, Research, and Evaluation. Mark Day has joined as the Director of Performance Management and Strategic Planning. Gabrielle Ramos and Katina Gays, both from the Broad Foundation, are joining the Department as Priority Project Managers. Gabrielle is working with the Turnaround Team and Katina will work under the Chief Operating Officer, Charlene Russell Tucker.

Feedback Regarding CALI Modules:

Higher Ed. Faculty are looking for what would be most beneficial to teacher prep candidates, specifically, what will give them the biggest bang for their buck. Using Differentiated Instruction to Implement the Common Core State Standards and Getting Ready for the Next Generation of Assessments are both on faculty's radar. Culturally Responsive Education should be woven in to all coursework. Improving School Climate seems to be more pertinent to educational leadership because leaders are the ones who can really affect school climate.

It is important to help teacher prep candidates understand the importance of asking to observe a data team when you're doing field experiences, ask their cooperating teacher what the school climate is like, etc. Often candidates have difficulty starting a conversation; they don't necessarily know how to broach a topic.

Sacred Heart University is committing 3 sessions in the fall (as part of their student teaching seminar) to components of the CALI modules. Faculty chose those elements that most closely aligned with their university's conceptual framework.

Updated CALI statewide training schedule was distributed [*attached*]. Culturally Responsive Education sessions will be offered, along with Effective Tier I Instruction for English Language Learners on November 19th and December 17th at CREC. Statewide trainings are now free for all educators including higher education faculty. Iris will work on publicizing these trainings to

faculty. It might make sense to recommend that faculty attend the session at their local RESC to give them the opportunity to network with district staff in their regional area.

Bill Howe, presenter for Culturally Responsive Education, is interested in holding two sessions just for higher education faculty: one at Central and one at Western. Iris will contact the ELL and Getting Ready for the Next Generation of Assessment presenters to see if they are willing to do the same for their respective modules.

Higher Education Accountability

The Educator Preparation Advisory Council [EPAC] was developed at the Governor's request with the State Board of Education's approval. Iris will confer with Diane Ullman as to EPAC's work so far. *[Suzi spoke to Diane after our meeting and Diane said work group members are welcome to attend as EPAC meetings are open to the public].*

Katie Moirs should be part of the conversation to talk about possibly using accreditation as a lever.

Gladys shared language from the AAUP blue book regarding academic freedom. *[Gladys can you please email me the specific language-Thanks!]*

UConn has developed employer-alumni surveys and used this feedback data to identify which specific classes need to do a better job preparing candidates.

Higher Education does not have a process or expectation for professional development for their faculty. The tenure and promotion system often works against faculty members who participate in supporting SDE initiatives, like in the past the BEST Program rather than publishing. Jacqui suggested that the CSDE look into funding grants to provide incentives for faculty to conduct research on CALI to satisfy the research component for promotion.

Common Core State Standards

The CSDE hosted a meeting on Monday, August 20th, to bring together a group of stakeholders from CSDE, RESCs, SERC, higher education, districts, CAS, and CAPSS to develop a strategic plan for implementing the Common Core State Standards. Monday's meeting focused on the Common Core. On August 30th, Sue Gendron from the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium will facilitate a discussion-strategic planning focused on the next generation of assessments. The Commissioner and the Liz Donahue from the Governor's Office were present to articulate the importance of Common Core State Standards to all of our work.

Sandra Alberti from Student Achievement Partners provided an overview of CCSS which included updates on what other states are doing to implement the common core. A majority of her presentation was devoted to the instructional shifts in ELA and Math *[see attachment from achievethecore.org]*. A major part of all of our work needs to focus on helping teachers improve

their instructional practice as it relates to the Common Core. There also needs to be a clear connection between Teacher Evaluation and the Common Core. There are many resources available on the Internet that educators can access [*for example, achievethecore.org has PD modules and additional information on the instructional shifts*].

The CSDE will follow-up shortly with a strategic plan that incorporates the ideas generated from the day.

College and Career Readiness

Gladys provided a summary of the June 15th College and Career Readiness Conference sponsored by the Board of Regents and Southern CT State University [*a more detailed summary is attached*] There is a national College and Career Readiness website: www.epiconline.org that provides many resources.

Speakers Bureau

CSDE is working on identifying examples of exemplary practice with differentiated instruction, data teams, etc. to participate in a Speakers Bureau that faculty could access to invite practitioners to come and speak to their classes. Nominations were solicited online and from CSDE consultants. Nominees are invited to attend a meeting on September 25th to plan the logistics for the speakers' bureau.

Next Meeting

Friday, October 26th, 2012, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Room 307 A State Office Building, 165 Capitol Ave. Hartford. Please RSVP to Iris iris.white@ct.gov and she will reserve parking.

Possible agenda topics:

- School Governance Council
- New Teacher Evaluation [*Here is link to press release regarding selection of pilot districts: <http://www.governor.ct.gov/malloy/cwp/view.asp?Q=505420&A=4010>*]
- CALI Module Relationship to Education Reform
- Update on CSDE Common Core State Standards Strategic Plan
- Report on Sacred Heart University's Student Teaching Seminars